

Joint Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance Meeting  
June 10, 2013

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito; Finance Director Rick Darling; Finance Chairman Jerry Sargent; Michael O'Brien; Melissa Koller; Michael Carter; David Finkel; Patti Kopas; Steve Ezzes; Dr. Colleen Palmer; Chief Troxell

**This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.**

**Board of Education enrollment update- Dr. Colleen Palmer.**

Dr. Palmer said that since the budget was adopted, one contingency teacher in FY2013-14 Budget was approved and they would like to carry over a contingency teacher that was not used during the 2012-13 school year. The two teachers have been allocated to grades 1&5 because the class size exceeded Board of Education guidelines.

They are watching kindergarten because they have an average of 21.7 students which exceeds the guidelines. The number included those confirmed who have actually purchased homes, have signed leases and they know the children will be enrolled. Based on current numbers it is anticipated that the district will need to add a teacher to the kindergarten enrollment.

K-8 every grade has either increased or stayed the same. The differential from where they thought they would be to where they are is an increase of 37 students. The projection going into the next school year was a total shift downward of 65 students and at this point they have made headway of 37 students into that decrease of 65 students.

**Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental request for the purpose of additional Police Officer presence on the school campus from December 17 to present (\$29,978 BOE), and for additional Mile of Safety coverage from January 2 to the end of the school year (\$14,351 BOE, \$9,524 PC).- Board of Education and Police Commission.** Joanne said she and Rick went through all of the billing dating back to the beginning of the school year. The mile of safety officer is split 40/60 which has been the agreement since 2006. The actual expenditure will be around \$94,372 for Mile of Safety.

Board of Selectmen motion: Mr. Tracey moved to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$56,601 for the Board of Education to cover additional police coverage from December 17<sup>th</sup> to present and Mile of Safety additional cost from December 17<sup>th</sup> through the end of the school year. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Finance motion: Ms. Kopas moved to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$56,601 for the Board of Education to cover additional police coverage from December 17<sup>th</sup> to present and Mile of Safety additional cost from December 17<sup>th</sup> through the end of the school year. Mr. Carter seconded and the motion carried.

**Discussion/decision regarding an update on the status of the Middle School wetlands mitigation project and supplemental request in the amount of \$ - Tom Landry and Erik Haakonsen-**

Erik said on the first day of school there was work going on in the wetlands remediation project. Around 2pm the back hoe went through the phone and fiber lines at the middle school. They got a group on campus that night and got a temporary fix on the phone lines. The next day they got parts and pieces so that they could re-splice part of the fiber to bring it back online. Two days later when they went back with the pull box and the permanent enclosures to fix the fiber the hole had been filled in. At that time they decided to wait until now to get that repaired over the summer.

There are three connections from the Town Hall to the High School that are still broken in three locations after the repair. They are operating at about 50% of capacity.

They went out to bid and the first proposal they have was a quote to repair the existing fiber breaks and the existing conduit, put a new pull box in place and re-splice the phone system and warrant their work. The second option would be to run a new piece of conduit between the High School pull box and the Middle School pull box so they would have the two options to choose from.

They submitted the initial claim in September and December they did a follow-up with CIRMA and determined that the cost would be under the \$25,000 deductible which is why they are asking for a supplemental appropriation.

Board of Finance motion: After some more discussion Michael Carter moved to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$17,435.16 to replace broken fiber optics in the Middle School field as part of the wetlands mitigation project. Ms. Kopas seconded and the motion carried.

Board of Selectmen motion: Mr. Tracey moved to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$17,435.16 to replace broken fiber optics in the Middle School field as part of the wetlands mitigation project. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session with Board of Selectmen and Board of Education regarding school safety initiatives.**

At 9:31 Ms. Weinstein moved that the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Education and the Board of Finance enter into executive session to discuss school safety initiatives. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ATTENDANCE: The meeting was convened at 9:32 pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room by Chairman Weinstein, with Selectmen Tracey and Mueller present. Also in attendance were: Town Administrator Landry, Police Chief Troxell, Police Sergeant Daubert, Emergency Management Team member Greenfield, School Superintendent Palmer, School Business Manager Keating, School Facilities Director Clarke, School IT Director Haakonsen, Board of Education members Stack, Schaefer, Levine, Harvey, and

Daniel, and Board of Finance members Sargent, O'Brien, Carter, Finkel, Kopas, Koller and Ezzes.

DISCUSSION: The meeting was called to explain and discuss proposed school campus safety security measures, including a portable radio Communications System. Chief Troxell, Sgt. Daubert, and Mr. Greenfield left the meeting after the Communications system presentation was completed. These measures will be the subject of a supplemental appropriation request from the Board of Education.

No votes were taken.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 11:13 pm, a motion (DM, DT second) to adjourn executive session and resume in open session passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding possible funding request for the purpose of addressing school district safety initiatives.**

Ms. Weinstein moved to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$434,732 for the purposes of school security initiatives. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Melissa Koller moved that the Board of Finance approve a motion for \$434,732 as a supplemental appropriation for the purpose of school security. Mr. Carter seconded and the motion carried.

**Discussion/decision regarding funding source for potential purchase of 48 Norfield Road.** Ms. Weinstein said that the Board of Selectmen voted to bring this to a Town meeting to determine if the Town would like to purchase the property and the residents would like to know before they vote how we are going to pay for this.

Mr. Sargent said that we should know that the project will be at least million dollars. He asked what the town or Selectmen's prospective on selling other properties to help offset the cost were. Ms. Weinstein said she was happy to consider that and has brought the potential to sell Jarvis at several town meetings but that was not the desire necessarily of the residents of the Town.

Ms. Weinstein said that EMS requested some space as well and they need space for bunk house. They just got a bequest of 1 million dollars and they would like to spend it on a facility and building a garage for their ambulances. If we gave them Jarvis and they can use that and build a garage to house the ambulance it would also open up space in Town Hall to be used for police services.

Mr. Sargent said that he feels that it was their job to let the residents know how we are going to pay for it. Mr. Carter said we could have an investor buy the property and the Town leases it. Ms. Weinstein said she is more in favor of purchasing the property and lease it so that we have income that we are generating and we have the property if we

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need it in the future, which is why she wants the Town to purchase the property. To her, the value is in the location.

Mr. Ezzes asked if the Historic Commission gets involved in this. Ms. Weinstein said not the inside only the exterior. Mr. Sargent said it is important to know the restrictions of what we can or cannot do.

Mr. Sargent said call of the meeting could say to purchase for X dollars and will be financed through borrowings, supplemental appropriation or other mechanism as deemed appropriate by Board of Finance.

**Discussion/decision regarding accepting the resignation of Michael O'Brien from the Board of Finance-** Ms. Weinstein moved to accept the resignation of Michael O'Brien very reluctantly. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 11:30 a motion to adjourn the passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approve 8/15/13